MARVEL
#17
AARON
IRVING
DOCTOR
STRANGE
kevin nowlan

STEPHEN STRANGE was a preeminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a miracle cure, but instead he found a mysterious wizard called the ANCIENT ONE who taught him magic and that there are things in this world bigger than himself. These lessons led Stephen to become the Sorcerer Supreme, Earth's first defense against all manner of magical threats. His patients call him...

# DOCTOR STRANGE

With the state of magic almost completely destroyed, Doctor Strange is at his weakest. Villains Orb, Baron Mordo, Mr. Misery, and Dormammu squared off over who had the right to kill Strange. With the help of Baron Mordo, Strange summoned enough magic to beat Dormammu.

Meanwhile, Mr. Misery, a monster made up of all of Doctor Strange's own misery, pain, and suffering, found someone new to spend time with...Strange's best friend, Wong!

## STATE OF MISERY


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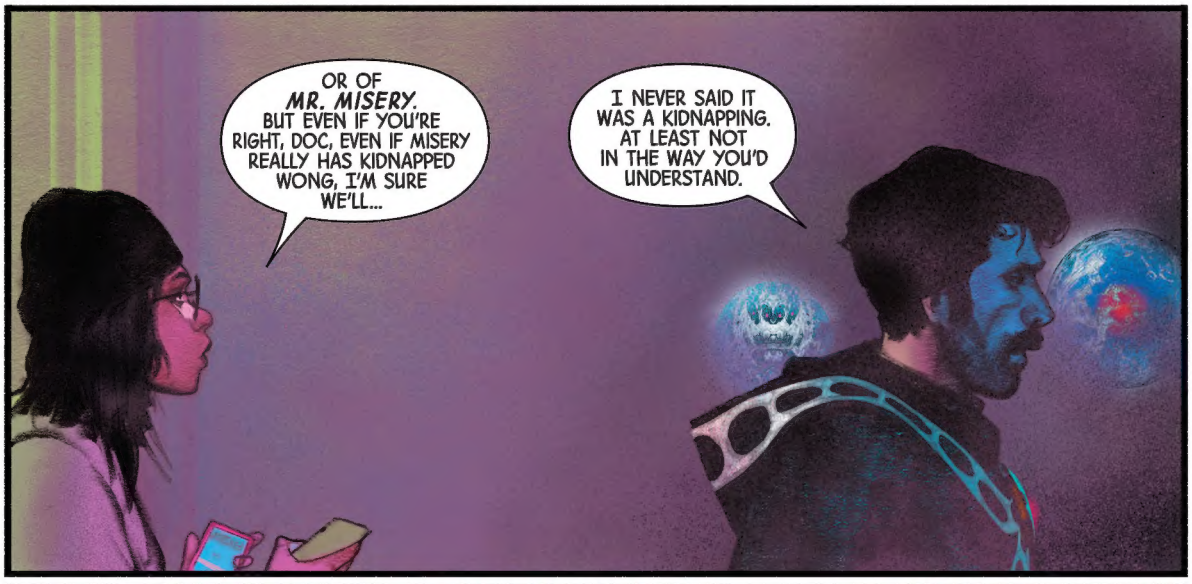
IT SEEMS LIKE JUST THE OTHER DAY WHEN ALL THE MAGIC DISAPPEARED.
DO. DIE-DIE.
A SCIENCE CULT CALLED THE *EMPIRIKUL* KILLED IT.
DO. DIE-DIE DO.
PEOPLE SUFFERED. PEOPLE DIED. BUT WE STOPPED THE BAD GUYS.
AND SINCE THEN, MAGIC HAS SLOWLY BEEN RETURNING.
DIE-DIE!
DIE-DIE-DIE!
MAGICAL FLORA AND FAUNA HAVE BEEN SPAWNING AND FLOWERING AGAIN. THE DRAGON LINES THROUGHOUT THE EARTH ARE ONCE AGAIN HUMMING WITH POWER.
AND WITH THOSE ENERGIES, COME THE STRANGE AND WONDERFUL CREATURES THAT FEED ON THEM.
WHICH BRINGS US TO TODAY.
HEY!

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, GUYS.
I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE.
THE GOGARRII AND THE DUVVUGOO. TWO RIVAL FACTIONS OF OTHER-DIMENSIONAL NOMADS WHO TRACKED THE MAGIC THE WAY PLAINS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES ONCE FOLLOWED THE BUFFALO.
THEY WERE JUST ABOUT TO FIGHT A WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER OVER TURF. COUNTLESS WOULD'VE DIED. SO INSTEAD...
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO HEAR?
MY MAGIC IS STRONGER THAN YOUR MAGIC! MY SPORTS-BALL TEAM IS BETTER THAN YOURS! I'VE GOT THE BIGGEST AX ON THE BLOCK!
JUST C'MON ALREADY!
SO I JUST CONVINCED BOTH ARMIES TO FIGHT ME INSTEAD.
NOW THESE TWO WARRING FACTIONS ARE UNITED. UNITED IN THEIR DESIRE TO SEE ME PAINFULLY AND REPEATEDLY MURDERED.
I NEVER SAID IT WAS A FOOL-PROOF PLAN.

I'M DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME.
AND I MAY NOT BE SPIDER-MAN, BUT I LIKE A GOOD WITTY QUIP AS MUCH AS THE NEXT COSTUMED JERK.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT NOTHING FUNNY TO SAY.
RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT MY FRIEND.

OKAY, SO WE'RE DONE HERE, THEN.
THE GOGARRII STAY TO THE WEST OF THE RIVER. THE DUVVUGOO WILL KEEP TO THE EAST.
AND NONE OF YOU ARE ALLOWED OUTSIDE THE LIVING ROOM.
MY HOUSE IS IN CHAOS. IT'S ALL GONE TO HELL SINCE HE DISAPPEARED.
WHERE ARE YOU, WONG?
ZELMA! TELL ME WE'VE GOT SOMETHING!

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING YET, DOC.
I'VE BEEN ON THE PHONE WITH THE NYPD, S.H.I.E.L.D., AND AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SEVENTEEN AVENGERS TEAMS.
THE WORD IS OUT. BUT SO FAR, THERE'S NO SIGN OF WONG.


OR OF MR. MISERY. BUT EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC, EVEN IF MISERY REALLY HAS KIDNAPPED WONG, I'M SURE WE'LL...
I NEVER SAID IT WAS A KIDNAPPING. AT LEAST NOT IN THE WAY YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

IN MY GUT, I FEAR IT'S SOMETHING FAR WORSE.
ALL RIGHT, MAGIC BALLS, WHAT HAVE WE GOT?
ALERT, CRYSTAL WARRIOR ACTIVITY DETECTED IN WEIRDWORLD.
ALERT, THE DARKHOLD HAS BEEN OPENED.
ALERT, HIGH LEVEL OF WITCHCRAFT READINGS ON WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN.
ALERT, UNKNOWN DISTURBANCE AT THE NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES.
ALERT, THE MANGOG IS COMING.
AS MAGIC SLOWLY REKINDLES AROUND THE WORLD, SO DO THE THREATS THAT COME WITH IT.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY...

UM, IS THERE AN ALERT IN THERE ABOUT YOUR KITCHEN? BECAUSE I WAS ALMOST KILLED WALKING PAST IT TODAY.
NOT SURE IF WONG LEFT THE FRIDGE OPEN OR WHAT, BUT THERE WERE TENTACLES THE SIZE OF CROCODILES COMING OUT OF THE DOOR.
DON'T GO IN THE KITCHEN WITHOUT A FLAMETHROWER, ZELMA. OR BETTER YET, JUST ORDER TAKEOUT.

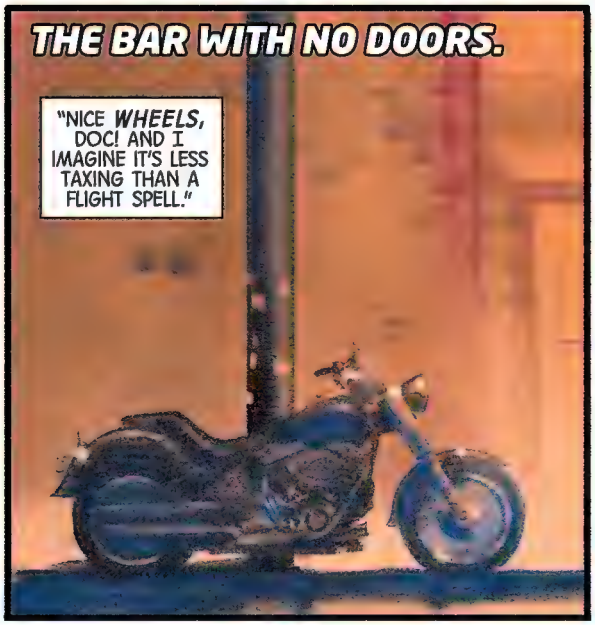
WONG IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO KEEP THIS HOUSE FROM KILLING US ALL, ISN'T HE?
ANY MORE PROBLEMS IN THE SANCTUM WILL HAVE TO WAIT. OR IN THE REST OF THE WORLD, FOR THAT MATTER. WONG IS THE PRIORITY HERE.
STAY ON THE PHONE, ZELMA, UNTIL YOU'VE TALKED TO EVERY LAST CAPTAIN AMERICA, WOLVERINE, AND IRON-PERSON.

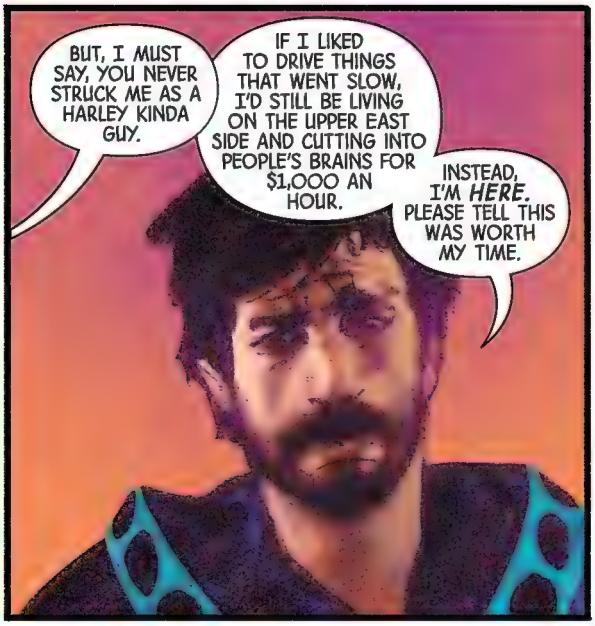
IF HE'S NOT KIDNAPPED, DOC...THEN WHAT IS HE?
IF I'M RIGHT... VISHANTI BE WITH HIM...

"...HE'S WISHING HE WAS DEAD."

YOU WON'T WIN THIS FIGHT.
NO MIND IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP ME, ESPECIALLY ONE SO CLOSE TO HIM.
YOU KNOW ALL HIS SECRETS, DON'T YOU? EVEN ONES I WAS NEVER PRIVY TO.
ALL I EVER KNEW WAS HIS PAIN. AND WE'RE GOING TO RETURN THAT FAVOR.
YOU AND ME TOGETHER. JUST TELL ME HOW, WONG.

TELL ME HOW TO HURT THE DOCTOR.
OH STEPHEN. STEPHEN, FORGIVE ME, I CANNOT...
HEH.
YES. OH YES, I SEE. THAT WILL DO QUITE NICELY.
WELL DONE, WONG.
WE'D BETTER GET GOING, THEN. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO, DON'T WE?
OR UNDO, I SHOULD SAY. HEH.



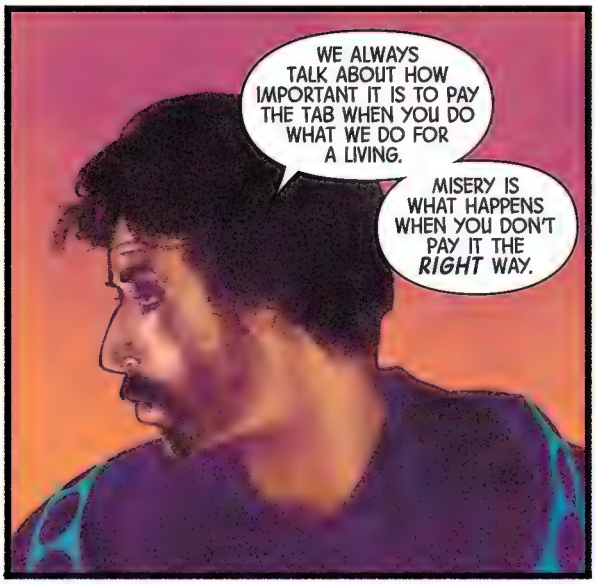

WISH WE COULD, DOC. BUT NONE OF US HAVE HEARD SO MUCH AS A MYSTICAL PEEP ON THE STREETS.

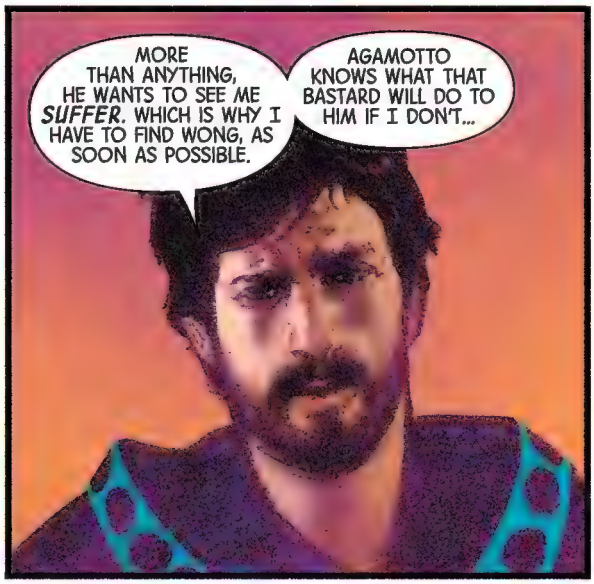
NOTHING ABOUT WONG OR THIS MR. MISERY GUY.

AND, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, BUSINESS IS REALLY PICKING UP OUT THERE THESE DAYS. FOR ALL OF US.

IN SIBERIA, IT RAIN DEAD BIRDS. THEN BIRDS COME BACK AS ZOMBIES. EAT BEAR. COUNT KAOZ HERE MISSING ALL THE FUN.

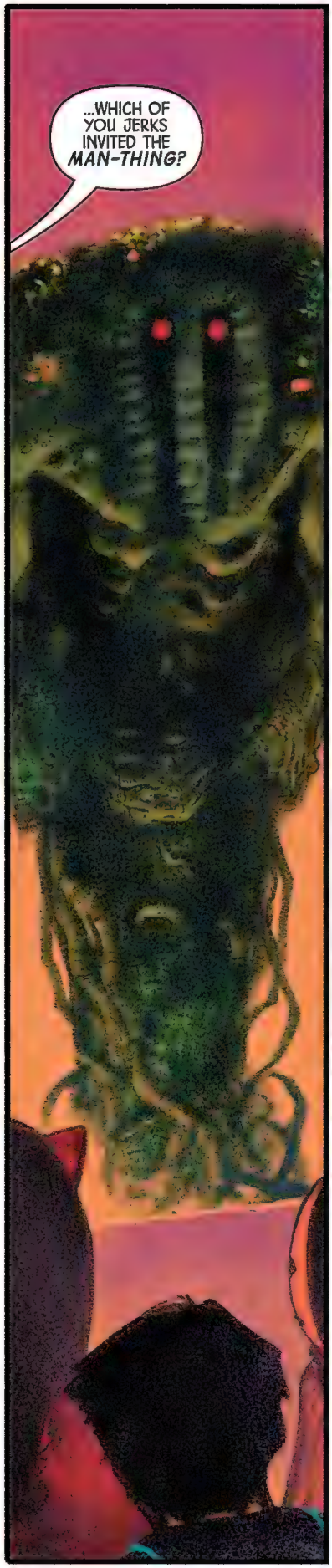
OF COURSE WE WANT TO HELP, STEPHEN. BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FILL US IN A BIT MORE.
YOU'VE NEVER REALLY TOLD US WHO THIS MR. MISERY GUY *IS*, OR EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS HE CAME FROM.


WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO PAY THE TAB WHEN YOU DO WHAT WE DO FOR A LIVING.
MISERY IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T PAY IT THE *RIGHT* WAY.


MORE THAN ANYTHING, HE WANTS TO SEE ME *SUFFER*. WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO FIND WONG, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AGAMOTTO KNOWS WHAT THAT BASTARD WILL DO TO HIM IF I DON'T...

WHAT THE... WE'RE UNDER ATTACK?!
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? LOOK AT MY FLOOR! I JUST GOT THIS PLACE PUT BACK TOGETHER.
THIS BAR IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR SORCERERS ONLY. SO, ALRIGHT, FESS UP...


...WHICH OF YOU JERKS INVITED THE MAN-THING?

I THINK HE'S HERE FOR ME. BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WHATEVER HE'S--

HSSSS
GAAGGH!
DON'T SAY IT. NOBODY BETTER SAY...

EL QUE CONOCE MIEDO, QUEMA AL TOQUE DE MAN-THING.
I SAID DON'T SAY IT!
YES, I'M AFRAID! I COULD'VE JUST TOLD YOU THAT! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

I THINK YOU'D BETTER GO WITH HIM, STEPHEN, OR YOU'RE LOOKING AT A HUG YOU WON'T SOON FORGET.
THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD, MR. GREEN JEANS.

STRIKE FROM THE SHADOWS AND BLEED THEM DRY!
LONG LIVE REICH 666!
HEIL DRACULA!
NAZI NINJA VAMPIRES. I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR ORIGINALITY IN YOUR ROGUES THERE, MANNY.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF THE NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES.
WHY ARE YOU SO ASHAMED OF YOUR WHITE BLOOD, DOCTOR? DON'T WORRY, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU!
LET'S JUST MAKE THIS FAST, ALL RIGHT?

KNOCK KNOCK
YES, HELLO?
SAMUEL WINTERGREEN?
YES.
THE SAME SAMUEL WINTERGREEN WHO HAD A CRANIOTOMY PERFORMED ON HIS BRAIN FIVE YEARS AGO?
DO I KNOW YOU? WHAT IS THIS?
IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS, SAMUEL. THOUGH I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT SOME VERY BAD NEWS FOR YOU.
THAT TUMOR THE DOCTOR REMOVED...
...IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE IT'S COMING BACK.

OH MY GOD, WHAT'S...
GAAARRGGGHH!!!
HGGGHK.
MY, WHAT A PRETTY BRAIN YOU'VE GOT IN THERE, SAMUEL.
COME ALONG, THEN.
AND SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW FRIENDS. YOU ALL HAVE SOMETHING VERY *IMPORTANT* IN COMMON.
SHALL WE GO AND TALK ABOUT WHAT THAT IS?

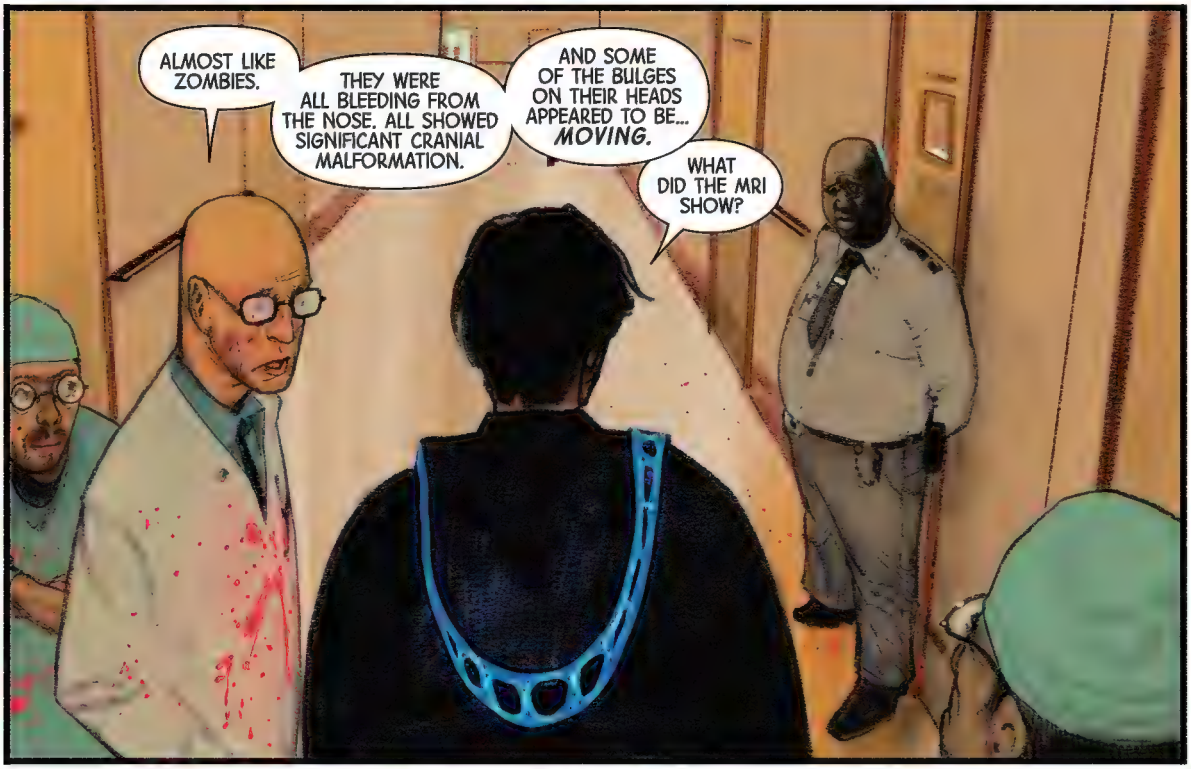
GRRRRGH!
KUDO

I'D SAY WE'RE ABOUT DONE HERE.
THEN YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE UNDEAD REICH. WE WILL--
AND YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF MY MAN-THING.

GAAAGH!!!
AAAAGHH!!!

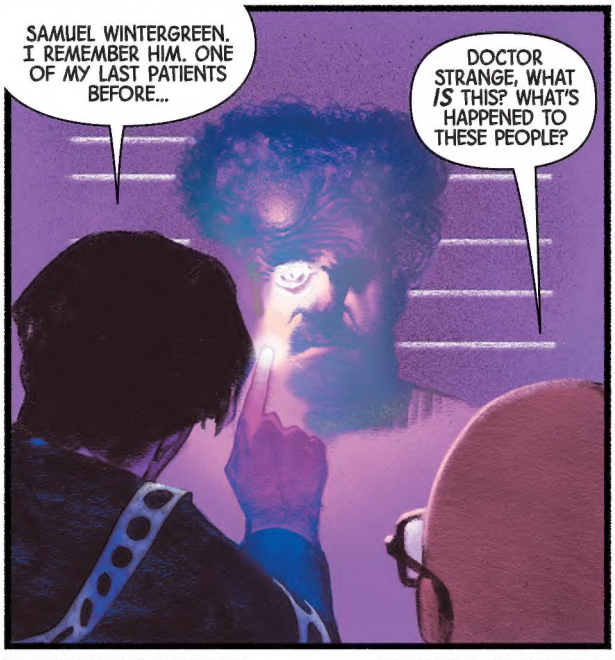
I'LL ADMIT, THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD STRESS RELIEVER. BUT REMIND ME TO GIVE YOU BLADE'S PHONE NUMBER FOR THE NEXT TIME YOU NEED HELP.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD...TALK TO THE EARTH AND FIND MY MISSING FRIEND, COULD YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU...
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME AGAIN.
AH, OKAY. THANKS, I GUESS?
I HELP YOU FIGHT VAMPIRES, AND YOU GIVE ME ALGAE. SEEMS LIKE A FAIR TRADE.
BUT THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS--
BREEP BREEP
JUST TELL ME YOU FOUND SOMETHING, ZELMA.
I DID, DOC. OR RATHER, SOMETHING FOUND US.

"BETTER GET TO THE HOSPITAL AS FAST AS YOU CAN."
THEY ALL CAME WALKING IN AT THE SAME TIME. ALL OUT OF THEIR MINDS.

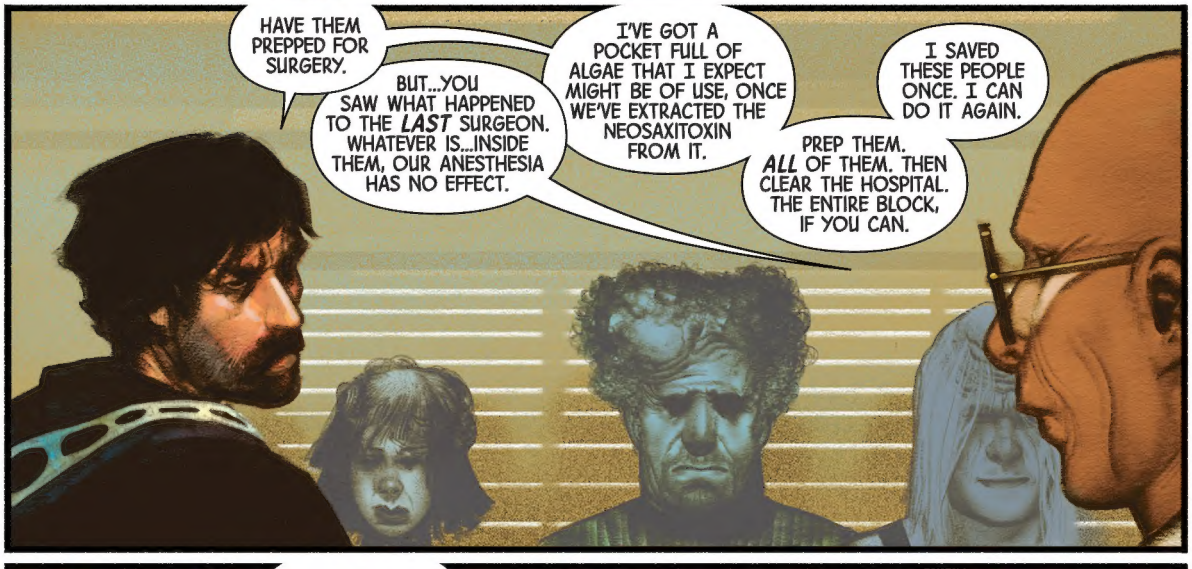

ALMOST LIKE ZOMBIES.
THEY WERE ALL BLEEDING FROM THE NOSE. ALL SHOWED SIGNIFICANT CRANIAL MALFORMATION.
AND SOME OF THE BULGES ON THEIR HEADS APPEARED TO BE... *MOVING.*
WHAT DID THE MRI SHOW?

TUMORS. *MASSIVE* BRAIN TUMORS. IN ALL OF THEM.
WE SENT THE FIRST PATIENT INTO SURGERY RIGHT AWAY. BUT WHEN DR. CONRAD ATTEMPTED HIS INITIAL INCISION, THE TUMOR, IT UH...

...IT FOUGHT BACK.
VISHANTI BE WITH HIM.
BY THAT POINT, WE'D, UH... WE'D DISCOVERED THERE WAS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PATIENTS.
THEY'D ALL HAD BRAIN SURGERY BEFORE. SUCCESSFULLY. SOME YEARS AGO.
AND IN EACH OF THEIR CASES... THEIR SURGERIES WERE PERFORMED BY YOU.
LET ME SEE THEM. NOW.


SAMUEL WINTERGREEN. I REMEMBER HIM. ONE OF MY LAST PATIENTS BEFORE...
DOCTOR STRANGE, WHAT *IS* THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THESE PEOPLE?

*MISERY.*
MISERY HAS HAPPENED.


HAVE THEM PREPPED FOR SURGERY.
BUT...YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *LAST* SURGEON. WHATEVER IS...INSIDE THEM, OUR ANESTHESIA HAS NO EFFECT.
I'VE GOT A POCKET FULL OF ALGAE THAT I EXPECT MIGHT BE OF USE, ONCE WE'VE EXTRACTED THE NEOSAXITOXIN FROM IT.
PREP THEM. *ALL* OF THEM. THEN CLEAR THE HOSPITAL. THE ENTIRE BLOCK, IF YOU CAN.
I SAVED THESE PEOPLE ONCE. I CAN DO IT AGAIN.

BUT NOT WITHOUT SOME QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF MAKING A CALL.
KRAKA-KOOM

AND THY CALL HAS BEEN ANSWERED, SORCERER SUPREME.
HOW MAY The mighty THOR BE OF ASSISTANCE?
TO BE CONTINUED!

# NEXT ISSUE: HAMMER TIME!

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